



MINUTES

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 14, 2016

REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING:

1. Call to Order.

The Board of Trustees of the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust convened with President Trent Lewis presiding at 8:40 AM on Thursday, January 14, 2016, in the Board Room of Upper Trinity Regional Water District at 900 N. Kealy, Lewisville, Texas.

2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum.

The attendance of the Trustees was taken. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Trustees in Attendance:

Trent Lewis, Place 7, President

Janet Aune, Place 2, Secretary/Treasurer

Leslie Maynard, Place 3

Robert Harpool, Place 5

Lyle Dresher, Place 9

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President

Shirley Haisler, Place 1

Doug Franklin, Place 4

Ken Dickson, Place 8

Trustees Absent:

None

Staff & Advisors of Upper Trinity Regional Water District in Attendance:

Thomas E. Taylor, Executive Director

Jason Pierce, Manager / Watershed & Contract Services

Blake Alldredge, Water Resource Specialist

Brenda Scott, Assistant Secretary

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Pledge: Trent Lewis

Invocation: Shirley Haisler

4. Adopt minutes of September 10, 2015 Trust Board Meeting.

Leslie Maynard made a motion to approve the September 10, 2015 minutes as written. Seconded by Shirley Haisler. The votes were all Yes. Motion carried.

5. Receive Report from Staff concerning on-going activities of the Trust.

Jason Pierce provided the following Staff report:

- Several articles of interest were included in the board packet.
 - Congress made permanent the tax incentives related to donated conservation easements.
 - Watershed Partners renewal notices were recently mailed, and the Trust has already received several responses.
 - Next week, Staff will be visiting with Huitt-Zollars, a local engineering firm, to discuss the Greenbelt Plan. The company has monthly luncheons, and is interested to learn more about the Greenbelt Plan and other activities the Trust is doing to protect local watersheds.
 - Trustees should have received their 2015 Contribution receipts in their Board packet. If you didn't receive a receipt and would like one, please contact Staff.
 - President Trent Lewis was selected as President Elect of Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society.
6. Consider approval of invoices from Upper Trinity Regional Water District for reimbursement of prior costs incurred by Trust, and authorize payment thereof.

President Lewis discussed the Upper Trinity invoices for the Trust. Staff recommends approval of both invoices.

Thomas Muir made a motion to approve Invoice No. W1511UTCT in the amount of \$3,467.56 for expenditures for the 4th Quarter of FY 2015; and, Invoice No. W1601UTCT in the amount of \$3,405.36 for the 1st Quarter of FY 2016. Seconded by Leslie Maynard. The votes were all Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

7. Receive Status Update on the Comprehensive Greenbelt Plan for Denton County.

Staff has been working with Alan Plummer and Associates (APAI) and Schrickel, Rollins and Associates (SRA) to prepare a draft Greenbelt Plan. Staff presented the following update:

- The Trust was a sponsor of 2015 GreenFest held at Lake Ray Roberts. Approximately 1,000 visitors attended. Blake Alldredge (UTCT), Jason Voight (APAI) and Janna Tidwell (SRA) attended the GreenFest to distribute information and cards, and to discuss the Plan with those attending. Approximately 50 people stopped by the booth.
- A first draft of the Plan is about 70% complete. Staff expects to have a draft Plan, with graphics soon. A copy will be placed on the UTCT's web site, as well as sent out for

review and comment. Copies will be provided to the Customer cities, the County and to the Trustees. After comments are received, a final Plan will be prepared.

- To gather additional input from the public, a nine-question survey was placed online. The information received (from 70 responses) will be useful in developing the implementation strategies and trail development.
- Staff met with four developers working in Denton County to get their input on the Greenbelt Plan. They were supportive of the Plan, and all viewed greenbelts as assets. Most report that they see higher home values for homes near greenbelt or park areas in general. They also like to see trail areas in neighborhoods which are used a lot.
- Vice President Muir asked if the Plan mentioned the Chisolm Trail, which is to be a major connectivity trail in the western portion of the County. Information about the Trail will be included in the Plan. Staff mentioned that there will not be a physical trail, since it is mostly privately-owned land. Instead, roadside markers will be set up in public areas to indicate location of the historic Trail.
- A briefing with Denton County Commissioners will be scheduled after the draft Plan is released. There will also be other briefings and opportunities for comments.
- Dr. Ken Dickson mentioned that residents around Tioga would like to extend the horse trails from the upper end of Lake Ray Roberts northward to Tioga, as they feel the greenbelt between Ray Roberts and Lewisville Lakes is a valuable asset.

8. Discuss progress concerning activities and goals in Trust's Annual Work Program Guidelines.

A. Trust's sponsorship and participation in the North Texas Cattlemen's Conference hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Fannin County Office on October 2, 2015.

Doug Franklin and Dr. Janet Aune, along with Staff, participated in the Fannin County Cattleman's Conference in October 2015. The Conference had a good turnout, with most of the attendees being from Fannin County. Three counties participated: Denton, Fannin and Grayson.

Looking to 2016, several things will play an important role regarding the Trust's Work Program, especially as it relates to the Greenbelt Plan and its implementation. Staff suggests the Trust focus on the following areas regarding the Greenbelt implementation.

- Trust host the Partners Program Breakfast - - typically held every other November.
- Host a landowner workshop - - similar to Connemara's workshop. This would be a half-day program, discussing conservation easement and land stewardship.

Mr. Taylor mentioned that Upper Trinity Water District is discussing with the U.S. Army Corps. regarding upstream conservation easements for Lake Ralph Hall. The Corps. is requesting that Upper Trinity, as far as the 404 permitting process, to restore some of the eroded creeks in the upstream reaches of the proposed new lake. Upper Trinity is

reasonably accommodating to this idea, but do not know how far it will go. Mr. Franklin has also been included as part of this discussion.

Vice President Muir asked that if Upper Trinity has to pay for mitigation, could the Trust qualify, or go through some process to qualify, as a receiver of mitigation dollars - - to enable the Trust to purchase Conservation easements.

There is a process with the Corps. to be recognized as a mitigation bank. Part of the discussion with one developer is that they are having to buy credits and put their money in some place that may be outside the county or watershed and not know what it is for. The developer prefers to put their mitigation in local projects.

There is another upcoming opportunity in connection to all the improvements with the Lewisville Lake dam. The Corps. will require Upper Trinity to move all its facilities – our downstream pipeline facilities away from the dam, which may require some mitigation. We will be getting into the forested area. The Corps. may instruct Upper Trinity on how and where to mitigate.

Dr. Ken Dickson mentioned that while at the University of North Texas, he received money for off-site mitigation for projects in the region (pipelines, fire lines, sewer lines), and the mitigation money was used to develop Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area.

President Lewis suggested adding an item to the 2016 Work Program - - it might be beneficial for the Trust to explore mitigation banking - - about the process, learn how the Trust might be involved and figure out how interconnectivity could work. There are several local examples of existing mitigation banks.

9. Discuss and consider approval of proposed Work Program Guidelines for 2016, with any desired changes.

Staff recommends the approval of the Work Program Guidelines, with the addition of an item to explore mitigation banking.

Vice President Thomas Muir made a motion to approve the Work Program Guidelines adding research of mitigation banks. Seconded by Shirley Haisler. The votes were all Yes. Motion carried.

10. Review agenda items, activities and announcements for future Board meetings.

None.

11. Confirm date, time and location of next meeting.

If the Trust continues a 2-month schedule, the next scheduled meeting would be tentative for Thursday, March 10, 2016, subject to fluctuation change as needed based on the Greenbelt Plan.

12. Visitor Comments.

None.

13. Adjournment.

Shirley Haisler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Doug Franklin.
The votes were all yes. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

Recorded By: Brenda Scott
Brenda Scott, Manager / Watershed & Contract Services
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust

Certified By: Janet Aune
Dr. Janet Aune, Secretary / Treasurer
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust